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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7168**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1585

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 17, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 16, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Deer Hunting Bag Limits.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Friend

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2nd Reading - 1st House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**    **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to increase the seasonal bag limit and increase the length of the hunting season for deer in the 30 counties that had the highest number of collisions involving deer and motor vehicles during the previous year. The bill also increases the seasonal limit for antlerless deer. It allows a person to hunt deer and turkey with a crossbow during the same season that a person may hunt deer and turkey with a shotgun or rifle.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill will result in additional administrative expenses for the DNR. The specific impact is unknown at this time.

The DNR reverted about \$3 M in General Fund appropriations in FY 2008.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The amount of additional revenue that will be generated by the proposal is indeterminable. License fee revenue is deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to finance the operations of the DNR divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

**Background:** Below are the totals for deer licenses sold during the last three years.

2006 Deer licenses sold: 248,672

2007 Deer licenses sold : 242,715

2008 Deer licenses sold : 259,939

A DNR deer hunter survey, which is sent out every two years to a random selection of deer hunters, shows that 54% of deer hunters fail to kill a deer, and only 7% of hunters kill more than two deer each year. Currently, in each county, a hunter may harvest a maximum of four deer (two in archery season, one in firearms season, and one in muzzleloader season), not including the bonus antlerless tags, which range from one to eight.

For 2008, the top 30 counties that had the highest number of collisions were Kosciusko, Steuben, Allen, Marshall, Porter, Elkhart, Tippecanoe, Noble, Dearborn, Vigo, Lake, St Joseph, Jasper, DeKalb, Warrick, Harrison, Wabash, Huntington, Clark, Cass, Hamilton, Montgomery, Pulaski, Parke, Starke, Greene, Washington, Jackson, Wayne, and Miami.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** DNR.

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